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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL


ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH & SANITARY
CONDITIONS
FOR 1937.

J. KELSALL THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Poulton-le-Fylde Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Poulton-le-Fylde
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Eleventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the district during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The area of the district is 2,410 acres, it is divided into five wards, viz.: Poulton North, Poulton East, Poulton West, Hardhorn, and Carleton. It is bounded on the North side by the Urban District of Thornton-Cleveleys, on the East and South by the Parishes of Singleton and Hardhorn-with-Newton, and on the West by the County Borough of Blackpool.

The district is mainly residential, and most of the industrial population is employed by agriculture, the Imperial Chemical Industries, the L. M. & S. Railway Company and the Building Trades.

The area is supplied with good and wholesome water by the Fylde Water Board. The whole of the town area is sewered on the combined system ; and is carried by gravitation to storage tanks situate on Skippool Marsh, and discharged into the River Wyre Estuary on the ebb tide. The northerly portion of the parish of Carleton is also sewered, and this system is now connected to the main system discharging into the River Wyre.

Births.

Births :—Boys 32; Girls 37; Total 69.

The number of births registered in the district was 69, giving a birth rate of 11.2 per thousand of the population as against 11.5 per thousand for the previous year.

There were two illegitimate births, and five still births were registered, giving a rate of 67 per 1,000 (live and still) births.

Infantile Mortality.

Two deaths under one year have been recorded during the year—giving a rate of 28 per thousand live births as against 43 for the previous year.

The rate for England and Wales during the year was 58.

Deaths.

Males 48. Females 37. Total 85.

The number of deaths in the district was 85 after deducting deaths of persons not resident in the district, and adding deaths of residents which occurred in other districts.

Causes of Death.

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes.....	48	37	85
Influenza... ..	3	1	4
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	3	1	4
Other Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Cancer	10	4	14
Cerebral Hæmorrhage.....	1	3	4
Heart Disease	15	12	27
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	3	5	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	0	0	0
Other Liver Diseases	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Births &c.	1	0	1
Senility.....	4	3	7
Suicide	1	0	1
Other Violence.....	2	1	3
Other Defined Diseases	2	3	5
	48	37	85

This gives a crude death rate of 13.9 per thousand, compared with 13.0 in the previous year. The comparability factor of this district is 0.90 and this gives an adjusted death rate for 1937 of 12.5 per thousand.

Tuberculosis.

The number of new cases notified during the year was seven, four of which were respiratory and three non-respiratory. Four deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis were recorded.

The notification of tuberculosis is satisfactory.

Table showing New Cases and Mortality during 1937 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5.....	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Over 55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	1	3	1	2	3	1	—	1

Cancer (Malignant Disease).

There were fourteen deaths from Cancer during the year giving a rate of 2.29 per thousand as against 1.84 for the previous year.

Infectious Diseases.

Five cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with nine for the previous year.

Table of Cases of Notifiable Diseases during 1937 :—

Notifiable Diseases	Total all ages	Years									Total deaths	Hospital	
		Under 1	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	45-65	65 & over		Cases	Deaths
Pneumonia ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	5	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	2	—

Diphtheria.

Under the Diphtheria Anti-Toxin (outside London) Order of 1910, serum is supplied free for the use of the inhabitants of the District. A stock is held by the Medical Officer of Health. Eleven swabs were taken for bacterial examination, and ten were negative and one positive.

Scarlet Fever.

During the year the District has been free from Scarlet Fever. There are facilities for the Schick and Dick tests to be carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. No inoculation has been effected with regard to Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

Influenza.

With the exception of sporadic cases of Influenza, the district has been comparatively free during the year.

Measles.

With the exception of sporadic cases of Measles, the district has been comparatively free during the year.

Bacteriological Examination.

Facilities for the examination of material for suspected cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis, etc., are available for all medical practitioners. Eleven swabs were sent for examination for Diphtheria,

Nursing.

There is a District Nursing Association and one District Nurse is employed. Her services are available for any of the inhabitants of the town for sickness other than infectious diseases and midwifery. The Association is financed by voluntary contributions.

Midwives.

There is one registered midwife in the district.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

There are no clinic or treatment centres under the direct control of the local authority.

The Child Welfare Clinic, which is held every other Tuesday from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0. p.m. in the Church Hall, Vicarage Road, is under the control of the County Authority.

A campaign against Venereal Disease is carried out by the County Council in co-operation with the local authority. The centres for the treatment of these cases are at Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, and the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Hospitals.

The local authority contributes to the Manchester Hospitals and Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, for cases for general sickness and accidents. For infectious diseases, contributions are made towards the maintenance of the Fylde Joint Hospital at Moss Side, Lytham, which contains 48 beds and 12 cots. For smallpox cases provision is made at the Elswick Leys Hospital of the Fylde, Preston and Garstang Joint Hospital Board, of which Poulton-le-Fylde is a constituent authority. 30 Beds are provided and further accommodation is available at the Elswick Sanitorium in case of epidemic.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is obtainable from the Police Authorities at Blackpool for non-infectious cases. For infectious cases the Fylde Joint Hospital and the Fylde, Preston and Garstang Hospital Board provide motor ambulances.

There is also one private ambulance available for non-infectious cases.

The Education (Administration Provisions) Act, 1907.

Under this Act, the Medical Officers of the County Authority make periodic examinations of children attending the schools.

Water Supply.

1917 houses are provided with a direct water supply.

The Fylde Water Board, of which Poulton-le-Fylde is a constituent authority, provides a plentiful and excellent supply of water from their gathering grounds at Grizedale and Stocks.

Milk Supply.

There are 44 cowkeepers registered and 39 Dairymen or Milk Purveyors. During the year the Lancashire County Council have taken samples of milk from the cattle in the district.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The sampling of food is carried out by the County Police Authorities.

Housing Conditions.

1. General Observations as to Housing conditions,

Housing conditions in the district are good. 90 per cent of the houses are modern and the older property in the centre of the town is kept in a fair state of repair by the owners.

2. Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.

(a) Extent of Shortage.

The Council has a small scheme of 22 houses and, as there is no shortage of houses, no further scheme is contemplated.

(b) Information as to any important changes in population.

No important changes.

- (c) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses.

None.

3. Overcrowding.

- (a) Extent : There is very little overcrowding in the district.

- (b) Causes : None.

- (c) Example of special action taken during the year 1937 to deal with overcrowding. None.

4. Fitness of houses.

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Acts or under the Housing Acts : None.

- (b) Special Measures taken e.g. in relation to carrying out programmes of repair : None.

- (c) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply : None.

- (d) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation : None.

5. Unhealthy Areas : None.

6. Action taken during the year regarding :—

- (1) Clearance Areas : None.

- (2) Improvement Areas : None.

7. Byelaws relating to houses, etc.

The present byelaws with regard to New Buildings are being revised.

Disinfection of Houses.

Disinfection has been carried out in all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Disinfectant fluid is issued to all cases, and the rooms fumigated with Formalin gas. Five houses were disinfected during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of Action taken during 1937.

No. of Houses found to be infested.

(a) Council Houses.....None. (b) Other Houses.....6

No. of Houses disinfested.

(a) Council Houses.....None. (b) Other Houses.....6

Methods employed for freeing infested Houses from Bed Bugs.

Hydrogen Cyanide Gas, carried out by Contractors.

Methods of Ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from Vermin before removal to Council HousesNone

Is work of disinfection carried out by Local Authority or by a Contractor.....By a Contractor.

Measures taken by way of Supervision or Education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.....None.

Summary of Report.

The birth rate shows a decrease on last year.

The crude death rate is higher than in 1936, and also higher than the average for the past five years.

The mortality for Cancer shows an increase; as does that for Tuberculosis.

The maternal mortality is nil and the infant mortality is lower.

With the exception of sporadic cases of Influenza and one case of Diphtheria, the area has remained healthy.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. W. G. Woolley for his assistance during the year and in the compilation of my Report.

I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. KELSALL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics, 1937.

	Total	Male	Female
Births in 1937.....	69	32	37
Deaths in 1937.....	85	48	37
Still Births in 1937.....	5	1	4

6,113 Population	Live Birth Rate	Per Crude Death Rate	Per 1,000 of Population, Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live Births
					Per 1,000 live Births	Per 1,000 total still & live Births	
Mean of 5 years							
1932-36	10.5	13.2	0.29	2.34	9.10	8.70	60
1936	11.5	13.0	0.16	1.84	Nil	Nil	43
1937	11.2	13.9*	0.65	2.29	Nil	Nil	28

Increase or
decrease in
1937 on 5 years'
average

1932-36 +0.7 +0.7 +0.36 —0.05 —9.10 —8.70 —32

Previous year —0.3 +0.9 +0.49 +0.45 Nil Nil —15

*1937 adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.90) = 12.5 per 1,000



Poulton-le-Fylde Urban District Council

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

on

The Sanitary Condition

of the

District for the Year Ended 31st December, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Poulton-le-Fylde
Urban District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my seventh Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district and the work done during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Area of District, 2,410 Acres : Population, 6,113.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1936 according to Rate Book : 1897.

Particulars of Sanitary Accommodation.

Privy Closets.....	29
Pail Closets.....	37
Waste Water Closets.....	5
Fresh Water Closets.....	2293
Dry Ashpits	17
Movable Ashbins	1900

Conversions.

		During year 1937	During 5 years 1932-37
No. of privy closets	{ to fresh water closets.....	0	0
	{ to waste water closets.....	0	0
	{ to pails, etc.....	0	0
No. of pail closets	{ to fresh water closets.....	0	1
	{ to waste water closets.....	0	0
Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles...		0	54

Sewerage.

No. of houses connected to Council's sewers.....	1,314
No. of houses connected to Septic tanks or cesspools.....	614

Total No. of houses on water carriage system..... 1,928

Regular cleansing and rodding of the sewers have been carried out. The Disposal works consist of Ferro-Concrete tanks with a capacity of six times the dry weather flow of the district served by the sewers. Before the sewage enters these tanks it passes through a screening chamber. The outfall consists of a 27 inch diameter cast iron main fitted with the necessary valves and tidal flap and the sewage is discharged into the River Wyre Estuary on the ebb tide. These works have been satisfactorily maintained during the year and there have been no complaints. The Council's Main Drainage Scheme has been commenced and at the end of the year approximately three and a half miles of sewers had been laid.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of the district has been done regularly every week. The refuse is collected in a covered motor lorry and is conveyed away from the town to Skippool Marsh, where the resultant tip is under partial control.

Sanitary Inspections.

No. of premises visited, 894.
 No. of inspections made, 1,094.
 Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 33;
 No. abated 33.
 No. of Notices served:—Informal 33; Statutory 0.
 Legal proceedings :—None.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Regulations.

There are four private slaughterhouses in the district, one of these is registered and three are licensed. These have been regularly inspected throughout the year and the conditions generally have been satisfactory.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed.....	694	14	932	5759	181
Number Inspected	694	14	932	Majority Inspected	181
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	2	6	1	—
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	—	2	1	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	28.6%	.8%	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned.....	2	5	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned.....	16	—	1	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.6%	36%	0.1%	—	—

No. of legal proceedings : None.

All condemned matter is sent to the Blackpool Abbatoirs and dealt with there.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Cowkeepers (including dairy farms).....	44
Number on Register.....	44
Number of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors.....	39
Number of Inspections made.....	89
Approximate No. of Dairy Cows.....	690

Factories and Workshops.

Number on Register :—49. Conditions :—Satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

Number on Register :—8. Conditions :—Good.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one common lodging house in the district, and the accommodation is for 32. It has been regularly inspected and has been kept in a very satisfactory condition.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under	
(b).....	65
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other person or persons	65
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority.....	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts)	49
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	65
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	10
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	15
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	Nil

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their officers.....	3
--	---

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(A) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	Nil
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners.....	Nil
--------------------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners.....	Nil
--------------------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

(C) Proceedings under Section 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
---	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
--	-----

(D) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	8
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....	8
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	49
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	8
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases...	51

I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILFRED G. WOOLLEY,

Cert. R. San. Inst.,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

